

# Gold King Mine Release Incident

**August 2015**

**Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200, Dallas, TX, 75202**

## ***Background***

On August 5, while investigating the Gold King Mine in Colorado, an EPA cleanup team triggered a large release of mine wastewater into Cement Creek. EPA is working closely with responders and local and state officials to monitor water contaminated by the release. The release's path flows through three of EPA's regions (Region 8 (Colorado/Utah & Southern Ute Tribe); Region 6 (New Mexico), and Region 9 (Navajo Nation)).

EPA has activated its Emergency Operations System to ensure coordination among its regions, laboratories and national program offices in Washington, D.C. EPA is closely coordinating with officials in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Southern Ute Tribe and Navajo Nation.

## ***What is happening now?***

EPA is collecting and assessing water quality from the Animas and San Juan Rivers daily. Over the next several days, we will be jointly evaluating data and information with partners to determine when access to the Animas River

**Animas River sample location**



## ***What has been done?***

- EPA has taken emergency response actions to capture and treat the discharge at the Gold King mine, addressing the risk of additional downstream impacts.
- Four ponds were constructed at the mine site in order to treat water, lower acidity levels, and remove dissolved metals.
- Working with San Juan County, NM officials, EPA is providing alternative water supply for livestock in New Mexico.

**Field team air monitoring along Animas River**







Field team collecting surface water sample

will be restored for activities and uses such as rafting, fishing, irrigation, and drinking water. EPA, tribal, state and local officials are coordinating these decisions based on sampling data, risk screening levels, and other related factors. The timing of these decisions could vary among local, state and tribal governments based on local conditions and by uses. Until notified otherwise, people should continue to abide by existing closures.

## ***What will happen next?***

- EPA is continuing to collect water quality samples from nine locations in the river near intakes for Aztec, Farmington, the Lower Valley Water Users Association, the Morning Star Water Supply System and the North Star Water User Association.
- EPA and New Mexico Environment Department are providing free water quality testing for domestic drinking water wells along the river. Teams of qualified technicians are going door-to-door to collect samples for laboratory analysis.
- EPA is also working with the New Mexico Department of Game Fish and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to investigate reports of impacts to wildlife.

## ***How can you learn more?***

For more information, please visit the Gold Mine Release Incident website:  
<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

**Toll-Free Hotline:**  
844-607-9700

**Email:**  
[r8eisc@epa.gov](mailto:r8eisc@epa.gov)

A Joint Information Center has been set to handle local and national media inquiries at 970-812-3351 or email to [press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov).





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

## HOW TO FILE A CLAIM

*EPA is committed to taking responsibility for the impacts to communities affected by the Gold King Mine Release.*

To file a claim for monetary compensation, please visit the Region 8 Gold Mine Release Incident website:

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

Complete the fillable PDF version of the Standard Form 95:

[http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-08/documents/standardform95\\_4.pdf](http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-08/documents/standardform95_4.pdf)

Email the signed Standard Form 95 to:

[R8\\_GKM\\_Claims@epa.gov](mailto:R8_GKM_Claims@epa.gov)

Or mail the Standard Form 95 to the following contacts:

Richard Feldman  
Claims Officer  
U.S. EPA Office of General Counsel  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (MC 2399A)  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Michael Nelson  
U.S. EPA Region 8 Office of Regional Counsel  
1595 Wynkoop Street (MC 8RC)  
Denver, CO 80202

**Kim Carpenter**  
County Executive Officer

**Mike Stark**  
Chief Operations Officer



**Don Cooper**  
Emergency Manager

**Mike Mestas**  
Emergency Management Coordinator

**Michele Truby-Tillen**  
Floodplain Manager

**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

209 South Oliver Drive - Aztec, NM 87410  
Phone: (505) 334-7700 Fax: (505) 334-0805  
[www.sjcounty.net](http://www.sjcounty.net)



**Media Contact:**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**5:00pm August 9, 2015**

Michele Truby-Tillen  
(505-334-7700)  
[trubym@sjces.net](mailto:trubym@sjces.net)

**For Immediate Release**

**Public Information Meetings**

*Aztec, NM* – Federal, State and Local Officials invite residents of San Juan County to attend a public meetings, every evening, Monday 8/10/16 – Friday 8/14/15 at the Farmington Civic Center Auditorium, 200 W. Arrington, at 6:00pm.

The purpose of the meetings is to update the public on the contamination of the Animas River, State and Local on-going operations, and other important information.

####

**Kim Carpenter**  
County Executive Officer

**Mike Stark**  
Chief Operations Officer



**Don Cooper**  
Emergency Manager

**Mike Mestas**  
Emergency Management Coordinator

**Michele Truby-Tillen**  
Floodplain Manager

## OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

209 South Oliver Drive - Aztec, NM 87410  
Phone: (505) 334-7700 Fax: (505) 334-0805  
www.sjcounty.net



### Media Contact:

### PRESS RELEASE

7:00pm August 9, 2015

Michele Truby-Tillen  
(505-334-7700)  
[trubym@sjces.net](mailto:trubym@sjces.net)

### For Immediate Release

## Updates on Potable Water Stations and Shower Facilities for At Risk Well Users

Aztec, NM – Residents with at risk wells that need assistance with showers will be able to access the McGee Park Showers from 9am to 5pm, Monday 8/10/15 – Saturday 8/15/15, by picking up a special pass at the Lee Acres Sheriff's Sub Station – 21 RD 5500.

Showers and a drinking water fill station have also been made available from 9am – 3pm, Monday 8/10/15 – Friday 8/14/15, at the National Guard Station – 1101 W. Navajo St. – Farmington. Contact Major Peete. For both shower stations, you must bring your own towel and supplies.

Potable water stations for DRINKING WATER ONLY have been set up for residents at the following locations:

#### In Bloomfield:

Bloomfield Fire Station – 911 N First St.

Sunday 9:00am – 9:00pm

Monday 8/10/15 - Friday 8/14/15 9:00am – 9:00pm

#### In Farmington:

Farmington Fire Station #6 – 3101 West Main St.

Sycamore Park Community Center – 1051 Sycamore St.

Sunday 8/9/15 9:00am - 10:00 and 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Monday 8/10/15 – Friday 8/14/15 6:00pm - 7:00pm

#### In the County:

Center Point Fire Station # 1 – 16 Road 2755

Flora Vista Fire Station #1 – 2 Road 3275

Valley Fire Station #4 – 4 Road 6200

Stations will be open:

Sunday 8/9/15 9:00am - 10:00 and 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Monday 8/10/15 – Friday 8/14/15 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Bring your own water containers. No large tanks.

